

# **Amherst Recycling & Refuse Management Committee Meeting Minutes**

December 4, 2014, DPW Conference Room

In attendance: Arnie Alper, Cristina Cox Fernandes, Laurel Dickey, Craig Goff, Brenda Kennedy-Davies, Sue Morrello, John Root, Andy Steinberg, Steve Telega, Susan Waite, Arlene Miller.

November minutes approved.

## **Downtown Recycling**

Susan reported that Alan Snow said that greater than 50% of the material in downtown recycling bins has been trash. The 32 gallon barrels are about half full when they are picked up. Alan and DPW employees have devised a new truck attachment that will be able to accommodate trash and recycling simultaneously.

The DPW has posted a new waste collection position which will handle trash pickup at bus stations, in the downtown area and in town parks. There are 19 bus stops in town that will receive trash barrels if they don't already have them. The bus stops will not receive recycling barrels. There has been controversy over whether it is the Town's or PVTAs responsibility to empty trash barrels at the bus stops, as the PVTAs doesn't allow drinks on the bus and does not provide trash cans in buses.

## **Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (SWEF) Status**

The preliminary FY 2016 budget estimates that the SWEF will be in the black. The budget does not include a recycling coordinator position. It's possible that the RRMCC committee will morph into some sort of Sustainability Committee. Andy Steinberg explained a bit about how the budget process works and that the budget will be made public on Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## **Transfer Station Recommendations Document**

Various changes were made. Craig asked that education be added as a component of the document. Brenda asked that a one-day drop-in pass be added as well. A working group will collect input from the Committee and will tweak the document further. Comments should be sent to Arnie by December 10<sup>th</sup>. The final document should be done and available by the end of January before the Finance Committee considers the budget.

## **Solid Waste Master Plan**

Craig called residential haulers and only Duseau Trucking said they could provide waste and recycling statistics for Amherst (they have not responded to subsequent calls). There was much discussion about how to get good baseline waste and recycling numbers for Amherst. Arlene said that accurate information is very difficult to obtain and the best data will likely be estimates based on regional DEP data available via their website. This is because in order to track waste in a highly accurate manner you need to look at Transfer Station records, as well as data from private haulers (residential and commercial).

Craig motioned that we approach the Health Department to request assistance with obtaining info about solid waste volume from the town licensed haulers. Approved unanimously.

Next steps: Arlene suggested we look at the big picture and outline our goals, how comprehensive we want to be and what we are trying to achieve. We can use the Zero Waste document as a baseline. We need to look at what is realistic regarding organics, curbside pickup of organics and hauler regulations. Everyone on the committee will give their priorities about what we want to focus on. The master plan

should include 3 parts:

1. The big picture – where we are now
2. What we want to accomplish
3. Action steps

Items for future meeting agendas:

- response to lack of compliance downtown and new bus stops.
- discussion of possible transfer to Sustainability Committee. Who is our staff liaison?
- cancellation of Amend Organics compost collection at Transfer Station.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Morrello